



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FREEWAY TRAVEL TIME SIGNS EXPANDED TO ENTIRE LOS ANGELES COUNTY TODAY *System Helps Motorists Plan Their Commutes*

Los Angeles -- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) entered Phase 2 deployment of providing estimated travel times on electronic overhead freeway message signs today.

Beginning in August, 2005, Phase 1 of the new, pilot project began posting estimated travel times on 14 electronic overhead freeway signs on selected routes throughout the greater metropolitan Los Angeles area, Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Estimates are not based on travel times for motorists traveling in the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV), or carpool lanes.

Today at noon, Phase 2 deployment not only expanded the project, but enhanced it as well by adding additional signs to intermediate locations on existing project routes. The addition of 16 new locations to the current deployment brings the total allotment of dedicated estimated travel time message signs to 30. "This visual method of communication will provide commuters with an additional information tool to plan their travels," said Frank Quon, Caltrans Deputy District Director for Operations.

Estimated travel times, based on information collected from roadway embedded traffic sensors, are providing motorists with real-time estimates to various locations, such as major freeway interchanges and well-known destination points – for example:

RTE. 110	10 MIN
DOWNTOWN	15 MIN (Los Angeles Civic Center)
LAX	20 MIN (Los Angeles International Airport)

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Although the travel times are based on real-time up-to-date information, Caltrans is cautious to note that the actual traffic conditions can change rather quickly. A major incident, Sig-Alert or child abduction Amber Alert will supercede the estimated travel time displays. Additionally, a traffic accident could immediately impact traffic in an area before the message signs would receive an updated message. Conversely, emergency response personnel may be able to clear an accident or debris from the freeways, relieving traffic congestion, before the message signs would receive an updated message.

Caltrans will continue to monitor public feedback and encourages comments from the motoring public by visiting their website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist07 -- and filling out a brief survey. Caltrans will use the information as a basis to continually fine tune and improve the CMS travel time operation; and will also continue to collect traffic flow congestion data to study and evaluate the effectiveness of this service.

Caltrans District 7, located in the Los Angeles area, has been a national leader in the delivery of advanced traffic solutions. “The goal is not only to provide citizens with additional time to spend with their families, but also to deliver safer and more efficient freeway systems, leading to improved mobility and congestion relief for California’s motorists,” added Quon.

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